

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5657

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION GENEVA

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CJUSMMAT ANKARA

USCINCEUR EC-J 4/7

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CNO

CSAF

DSA

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SHOULD READ NOW RPT NOW VICE NOT)

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, TPHY, TU, PFOR,

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY: AMERICAN ROLE IN VAN

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF CONSUL VON DEN STEINEN WHO STAYED
IN VAN AREA NOVEMBER 29 UNTIL DECEMBER 1.

2. GOT, RED CROSS AND UN OFFICIALS AT VAN HAVE EXPRESSED
UNANIMOUS APPRECIATION FOR US CONTRIBUTION TO VAN DISASTER
RELIEF. GOT MINISTER FOR RECONSTRUCTION PRAISED EXCELLENT
US ASSISTANCE IN CONVERSATION WITH FRANCIS AND VON DEN
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STEINEN AT VAN AIRPORT MORNING DECEMBER 1 AND REITERATED

REQUEST FOR 1,000 ADDITIONAL TENTS. MINISTER, HOWEVER, STATED THAT ONLY 120 TENTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN ERECTED. VON DEN STEINE, AGREES THIS FIGURE IS NOT AN UNDERSTATEMENT. EFFECTIVE ERECTION OF OUR TENTS REALLY ONLY BEGAN FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF 45-MAN USAF TEAM ON NOVEMBER 29 WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH TURKISH TEAMS PUTTING UP TENTS AT RATE NOW EXCEEDING 20 PER DAY.

3. WITH EXCEPTION OF FEW USED TENTS, TEAM HAS EXPERIENCE NO PARTS SUPPLY PROBLEM EXCEPT FOR LINERS WHICH WERE MISSING IN ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF FIRST GROUP OF TENTS.

4. TURKISH GENERAL COMMANDING IN CALDIRAN REGION TOLD VON DEN STEINEN THAT FOUR TENT-VILLAGES OF 50 TENTS EACH ARE PLANNED IN THAT AREA. ONE TENT-VILLAGE ESSENTIALLY COMPLETED MORNING NOV 30; HOWEVER, TURKISH MILITARY HAD NOT YET PLACED ANY HOMELESS CIVILIANS IN THESE TENTS.

SOME OTHER AMERICAN TENTS HAVE BEEN ERECTED IN THE TURKISH MILITARY COMPOUND AND - ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL - ARE BEING USED FOR TROOPS WHO LOST THEIR HOUSING BECAUSE OF THE QUAKE.

5. ERECTION OF AMERICAN SUPPLIED STOVES IS ALSO PROCEEDING AT CALDIRAN. BECAUSE OF THE LOCAL FUEL SITUATION, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THESE, VERY VERSATILE STOVES WILL BE ADAPTED FOR USE OF SOLIDS SUCH AS COAL, WOOD AND DUNG.

6. OTHER AMERICAN SOURCE TENTS HAVE BEEN ERECTED BY TURKS AT MURADIYE WHERE THEY SEEM TO BE IN USE PRIMARILY THUS FAR AS OFFICES AND FOR STORAGE OF FOODSTUFFS. THE SIZE OF OUR TENTS - 26' X 32' MAKES THEM VERY SUITABLE FOR SUCH MULTIPLE PURPOSES.

7. APART FROM THE SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, USAF PERSONNEL SUPPORT HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY TURKISH AUTHORITIES. THE AIRLIFT CONTROL ELEMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO HAVE BEEN CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE AIRCRAFT HANDLING. DURING THE PAST FIVE DAYS, INSTEAD OF ITS USUAL THREE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS A WEEK, THE VAN AIRPORT HAS RECEIVED AND TURNED AROUND 128 AIRCRAFT AS OF DEC 1, AT 5 A.M. (THESE INCLUDED 40 USAF AND 51 FRG AIRCRAFT.) GOT HAS ALSO DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN MOBILIZING TRUCKS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE MOUNTAIN OF SUPPLIES MOVING.

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